

they're fighting to protect billions in tax breaks for Wall Street and oil companies or they'll shut the government down.

In other words, they demand sacrifices from everyone except millionaires, billionaires, and their corporate benefactors. That's why I think we ought to call the reckless GOP spending plan "good old payback."

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let politics and corporate profits trump smart and compassionate policy and the well-being of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to reject these demands and fight to create a government and an economy that works for all Americans, not just the wealthy few.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS SMART CUTS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we have got to get ahold of reality. We have got to ask: What is it? What is it that we're doing when we're not able to come to a CR? Look at what we're telling the people. And worse than anything else, we are defeating the main purpose for which we are here.

We're here to build public confidence. We're here to make people feel good that we know what we're doing and that there is a bright future for all of us. Instead, the majority is proposing yet another series of budget cuts.

Cuts, yes, we must get our budget under control, but we must do it smartly. And somehow that message isn't getting through.

Two economists said that the cuts are shortsighted. Budget cuts to human capital, our infrastructure, the next generation of scientific and technological advances do nothing for us. As a matter of fact, those are going to set us back.

Mr. Speaker, please, what we need to do, what the majority needs to do, is to say, yes, cuts, but smart cuts. And let's work together towards smart cuts.

APRIL FOOLS AND THE REPUBLICAN SPENDING CUTS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the previous Members on the Democratic side talked about, tomorrow is April Fools. April 1, April Fools. The Republicans would like to have everybody believe that a bill that just passed the House but has never passed the Senate, never been signed by the President, is going to become law. I mean, we all know from our civics class that just isn't what the Constitution says, but they'd like us to believe that.

Now, that's a bad enough joke on America, but the real bad joke is what's in that bill. We're finally start-

ing to get this country on its feet economically. We're starting to make things in America again. Manufacturing is on the rise. But they'd like to see that cut. They want to cut our research into clean energy, which, in Colorado, for every job that we have in research, there are four private sector jobs. They want to cut that. That's the bad joke that's coming up on April Fools.

The cuts that they ask really pull the rug right out from under the feet of America, and we've got to stop it.

THE DREAM ACT CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to ask my colleagues to help American families and children.

I join my good friend Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ on acknowledging the many children, the talented children that are in our schools that deserve the best education, along with all of our children who happen to have been in this country most of their lives but they're undocumented. They are called the DREAM Act children, the children who are our future engineers and doctors, teachers and train workers, bus workers—people who help build America.

It is time now to support comprehensive immigration reform. It's time now to distinguish between the bad guys, whom all of us want to be see deported, versus these young children who are valedictorians and salutatorians, who are athletes, who are men and women in the United States military, who are seeking to be part of the pillars of this community. I want to join in standing alongside these American families and children, not to break up families who are raising wonderful Americans but yet are not statused because of the way their families came to seek an opportunity.

Comprehensive immigration reform is the answer, but we must protect the DREAM Act children.

GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues made a "pledge to America" to develop a plan to "create jobs, end economic uncertainty, and make America more competitive."

Yet, to date, Republicans have not produced a single job-creating measure. In fact, they have done just the opposite. First-time jobless claims increased by 5,000 last week, and the total number of people receiving benefits fell to its lowest level in 3 years. The February job report showed gains of 192,000 jobs and a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.9 percent.

Still ignoring the facts that the experts have said, the needs of their constituents, and basic logic, Republicans continue to embrace a plan that would hamper our economic progress, depress our growth and development. This misguided job-killing spending plan is estimated to eliminate 800,000 jobs and reduce economic growth by 2 percent.

This is irresponsible, unacceptable, and I urge my Republican colleagues to abandon this job-killing spending campaign and adopt a reasonable agenda to support economic development and job growth.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair announces that the Speaker named the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 112th Congress:

Mr. BISHOP, Utah
Mrs. BLACKBURN, Tennessee
Mr. CRENSHAW, Florida
Mr. LATHAM, Iowa
Mr. SIMPSON, Idaho
Mr. WALDEN, Oregon
Mr. OLSON, Texas
Mr. LATTA, Ohio
Mr. GRIFFIN, Arkansas
Mr. GRIMM, New York

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has been made aware of a valid basis for the gentleman's point of personal privilege.

The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the critical issue before this Nation today is not Libyan democracy; it is American democracy. In the next hour, I will describe the dangers facing our own democracy.

The principles of democracy across the globe are embodied in the U.N. Charter, conceived to end the scourge of war for all time. The hope that nations could turn their swords into plowshares reflects the timeless impulse of humanity for enduring peace and, with it, an enhanced opportunity to pursue happiness.

We are not naive about the existence of forces in the world which work against peace and against human security.

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But it is our fervent wish that we should never become like those whom we condemn as lawless and without scruples, for it is our duty as members